

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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Mikhailovich Kudryavtsev and Generals V.P. Sviridov and S.Ye. Maslov. Kudryavtsev described the Moscow peace offensive as a continuation of Stalin's peaceful foreign policy but with "new tones". He emphasized that every government from time to time must control its foreign policy empirically and then adjust its actions accordingly.

2. Informant felt that Kudryavtsev's statement seemed to contain a certain "insecure hope" that the Soviets now perhaps not only seek a breathing spell for the new government but also could use an opportunity for a modification of their policy toward the West from a long term point of view. According to informant, the defeat of the Communists in Greece, the defection of Yugoslavia, the failure of the Berlin blockade, and United States and West German rearmament are empirical factors behind the present Soviet policy toward Europe. Source agrees that these experiences gave Moscow reason for a policy reversal.
3. Kudryavtsev also stated that the time has arrived to see whether or not the other side will ease the tension. Moscow awaits with great alertness the acceptance of its peace feelers.
4. Informant added that (his) first reaction to the success of the new Soviet policy was the thought that the Soviets had brought one step nearer the realization of their program to separate West Europe from the United States. The opinions of London and Paris are entirely different from those of Washington; the White House is inclined toward a clever, tactical peace approach.
5. During recent weeks, Austrian requests for practical gestures to ease the tension, such as the extension of Soviet amnesty to Austrians in the Soviet Union and the release of prisoners in Austria, have been granted. Far reaching conclusions from this cannot be drawn. No large gestures have been made to date. The Austrian Minister to Moscow in sounding out Molotov on Austrian treaties received only evasive answers. The Austrian Chancellor now wishes Austria to remain in the background during the coming treaty negotiations.

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